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Abstract

The aim of the study was to explore the companies with Russian management participation in Southwestern Finland and to find out if they have international business operations, especially in Russia.

In 2004, there were 1915 joint-stock companies in Finland with Russian involvement, of which 41 are situated in Southwestern Finland. Almost two thirds of the companies were inactive, and the researcher was able to find further information on eleven of the active companies. All these companies were small and employed only 1-11 people. The companies were not subsidiaries of companies from Russia, but are probably run by Russian immigrant entrepreneurs in Finland. Some of the companies, however, have capital from Russia.

The three case companies, HyTest, Medical Trading & Consulting Metkinen and Energoservice International did not have customers in Finland. All had connections to Russia: One of the companies traded with Russia, one employed staff straight from Russia and one had a research laboratory with Russian staff in Moscow. The role of the Russian citizens in these three companies was significant: two of the companies had only Russian management and one had a Russian Managing Director. The results from case companies cannot be generalized to all Russian companies in Southwestern Finland. The case companies were chosen because of their potential of being international in their operations. Most of the active Russian companies in Southwestern Finland have very small-scale operation, are not international and employ only one person.

The main findings of the study were the following:

1. Surprisingly many of the Russian companies in Southwestern Finland are inactive. Thus, the number of companies with Russian involvement in Southwestern Finland should be questioned.
2. The case companies in this study were run by Russian immigrants living in Finland. The Russians in management had a lot of decision power in the company. There was some ownership from Russia in the companies, but they were not subsidiaries of Russian multinationals.
3. All case companies had international operations, and business connections to Russia. All case companies utilized the connections to Russia brought by the Russian management.

Key words	Immigrant entrepreneurship, Russia, internationalization of companies
Further information	